

PATENT  
Docket No.150.01180101IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Brian A. Vaartstra	)	Group Art Unit:	2814
		)		
Serial No.:	10/032,049	)	Examiner:	Thao Le
Confirmation No.:	5131	)		
		)	Allowed:	October 29, 2003
Filed:	December 21, 2001	)		
		)		
For:	METHODS FOR PLANARIZATION OF METAL-CONTAINING SURFACES USING HALOGENS AND HALIDE SALTS			

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF  
REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop Issue Fee  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants wish to clarify that claims 1, 18, 37, 52, and 53 each recite that "the halogen-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of a halogen; an interhalogen; a halogen-generating compound selected from the group consisting of XeF<sub>2</sub>, HgF<sub>2</sub>, SF<sub>4</sub>, alkyl halides, and complexes of halogen with organic bases; *and combinations thereof*" (emphasis added).

Applicants also note that claims 31, 34, 50, and 51 each recite "a halogen-containing compound selected from the group consisting of F<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>, Br<sub>2</sub>, I<sub>2</sub>, ClBr, IBr, ICl, BrF, ClF, ClF<sub>3</sub>, BrF<sub>3</sub>, ClF<sub>5</sub>, IF<sub>5</sub>, IF<sub>7</sub>, XeF<sub>2</sub>, HgF<sub>2</sub>, SF<sub>4</sub>, alkyl halides, and complexes of halogen with organic bases, and combinations thereof," but do not specifically recite the terms "halogen," "interhalogen," or "halogen-generating compound."

**Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance**

Page 2 of 2

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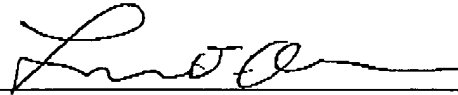
For: METHODS FOR PLANARIZATION OF METAL-CONTAINING SURFACES USING HALOGENS AND  
HALIDE SALTS

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-referenced claims are patentable for  
at least the reasons of record.

Respectfully submitted for  
**Brian A. Vaartstra**

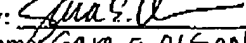
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January 29, 2004  
Date

By:   
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**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8:**

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Transmittal Letter and the paper(s), as described hereinabove, are being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop ISSUE FEE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 29 day of January, 2004, at 11:15am (Central Time).

By:   
Name: SARA E. OLSON



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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION TO THE PTO

Commissioner for Patents  
Attn: Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FAX NUMBER: (703) 746-4000  
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The following papers are being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office by facsimile transmission: Issue Fee Transmittal - Part B (PTOL-85) (1 pg. - in duplicate); Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance (2 pgs.); Fee Address Indication Form (1 pg.)

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Customer Number 26813

January 29, 2004  
Date

By: [Signature]  
Loren D. Albin  
Reg. No. 37,763  
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**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this Facsimile Cover Sheet and the paper(s), as described hereinabove, are being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Issue Fee, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 29 day of January, 2004, at 11:15am (Central Time).

January 29, 2004  
Date

Signature: [Signature]  
Name: GARA E. OLSON

If you do not receive all pages, please contact us at (612)305-1220 (ph) or (612)305-1228 (fax).